THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 47. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Feb. 7th, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Mrs. Bouvier. Chair: Mr. J. C. Rowe.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Walshe, Mr. V. D. Duval.
Monday, Feb. 8th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall.—Miss Barry.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Lesbia Rd—Mrs. Drake.
Tuesday, Feb. 9th, 8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall — Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Schlette.
Wednesday, Feb. 10th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mr. Mewett.
Thursday, Feb. 11th, 3 p.m. — Deacon's Vestry—Member's debate.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—Bow Obelisk—Mrs. Walker.
Friday, Feb. 12th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Mrs. Scurr.
8 p.m.—Canning Town—Beckton Rd.—Miss Thomson.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.
Sunday, Feb. 14th, 8 p.m.—Bow Baths.

MEETING
IN
BOW BATHS,
Sunday, February 14th,
At 8 p.m.

MEETING
IN
Canning Town Public Hall,
Barking Road,
Sunday, February 21st, 8 p.m.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor attendances and baby weighing—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)
Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, garments and shoes may be had on application.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

FROM A SOLDIER'S MOTHER.

Edinburgh.

Much is said about the soldiers' wives, but what about the soldiers' mothers, they are getting shamefully treated. I have a son in the 9th Royal Scots, who are going away very shortly to fight for their country. My boy signed a paper allowing me 6d. a day, being told the Government would allow his mother up to 10s. while he was away. I filled in a paper, got my minister to sign his name and then a Pension Officer came down. I will not say what I suffered from that man, but I was insulted by our generous Government by the offer of 5d. a week for my son. It is a disgrace, my boy gave me 10s. a week and in a month or two he would have been getting 12s. In the course or another year he would have been out of his time and getting 18s. to £1. The Pension Officer said I was not any the loser, but suppose my son does not come back. Many a mother has had a hard struggle to bring her son up to be a man, and just as he has got to be a fine help he goes. My boy went away the very week the War broke out and offered to fight for his country, and I had taken rooms at a higher rent last May because I thought his pay would be always increasing.

I had to buy all his kit in the Territorials and I did not get the £5 they speak of. Now I am unable to pay my rent next week, and will be compelled to leave this house. I cannot keep it up on my husband's small pay. I have five other children, the oldest is 12 years of age. The one that is in the Army was the only boy I had working. It is very hard and I will have to go and get work of some kind to do at home. I have a young infant I cannot leave and my husband is not strong now. Do you not think that every mother should get something done for her by the Government ? Her's is the sacrifice ! I would be very glad indeed of £2 or £3 just now to help me pay my rent, but because I have a husband I shall not get it. When I had my boy giving me 10s. a week I put 8s. 7d. of it away for the rent, and sometimes the whole 10s., as it took all his father's pay, which is not big, to keep us in food, and everything is so dear just now. I ask you to try and do something for the mothers, which I know you will do if you can.

Wishing you every success, Mrs. M.

We are constantly getting letters and reports on this subject.

In the House of Commons on February 2nd, Mr. John Sutton (Lab.) said that at a Manchester recruiting meeting which he was addressing, a woman got up to protest that her son had enlisted and that she was only allowed by the War Office 1s. 6d. a week. Mr. Sutton said that he knew of young men in the Lancashire coalfields who were in the habit of taking home £1 a week, and that where several sons had been living at home the mother was now able to get from the War Office only a few shillings in respect of one of them.

Mr. Thomas Richardson (Lab.) said that as a member of the Old Age Pensions committee in a mining district, he knew the War Office had frequently refused to make the payments recommended by the committee to the dependents of men who had been paying for their own maintenance and making substantial contributions to the home in addition. Members of the Old Age Pensions committee felt strongly that it was useless to meet and discuss these cases if the War Office persisted in its present policy.

Mr. Tickler (Lib.?) said that 2,600 men had volunteered for the dangerous work of mine sweeping, and that 100 of them had already lost their lives. The wives of these men had neither separation allowances nor pensions. The men asked that the Government would grant to them and their wives the same allowances and pensions as those allowed to the Navy.

Mr. Sherwell (Lib.) said that the Greenwich Board of Guardians had curtailed the diety of the children under their control because of the rise in food prices. Mr. Herbert Samuel partially admitted this.

"HUNGRY MOUTHS."

With acknowledgments to the *Daily Chronicle* and the *Chicago Daily News*.

EDUCATION AUTHORITIES EXPLOIT THE MOTHERS.

Much consternation is being caused in poor London homes by the announcement of the school authorities that the children's dinner hour is to commence at 11.30 a.m., and that the schools are to close at 2.30 p.m. The new arrangement is being made in order to save the cost to the Education Authorities of lighting and fuel which is daily becoming greater. But no thought has been given to the difficulties of the poor mothers concerned. Their husbands come home to dinner in the majority of cases after 1 o'clock, and the meal that was prepared for the children at 11.30 will hardly be appetising for them more than an hour and a half later. Either the husband's health and comfort must be sacrificed, or the wives must be put to the trouble of preparing two separate mid-day meals. This will entail greater cost both of food and fuel, which cannot be found, for a workman's wages to-day are strained to their uttermost owing to the great and continuous rise in prices.

As for the children—it is said that when they leave school at 2.30 they can only play in the streets. But what are they to do in wet and snowy weather, and what are the delicate children to do, who are unable to play continuously in the cold air for hours without injury ?

If this wealthy nation finds it difficult to pay for the cost of heating the schools, how much more difficult is it for the poor mothers to buy coal enough to keep the home properly warm ?

This new arrangement of the school meal hours is to be condemned from every point of view. It is to be hoped that a determined public outcry to secure a reversion to the old system will be raised.

HOW RISING PRICES AFFECT POOR HOMES.

Prices from Canning Town.

	Before War.		*Since War.*	
	s	*d*	*s*	*d*
Bread ...	0	4½ qtn.	0	7 qtn.
Coals ...	1	2 cwt.	2	0 cwt.
Tea	1	4 lb.	1	8 lb.
Matches ...	0	0½ 4 boxes	0	1 4 bxs.
Flour ...	0	3½-qtn.	0	4½-qtn
Pearl barley	0	2½ lb.	0	4 lb.
Sugar ...	0	1¾ lb.	0	3½ lb.
Milk	0	3½ tin	0	5 tin
Nestles ...	0	5½ tin	0	7½ tin
Butter ...	1	0 lb.	1	4 lb.
Lard... ...	0	7 lb.	0	8 lb.
Dripping ...	0	4 & 5 lb.	0	6 & 7 lb.
Rabbit ...	0	3½ lb.	0	5 lb.

The cheapest meat for boiling has trebled in price.

The meat for baking has doubled in price.

This price list shows an increase of 40 per cent. on the commodities given.

Prices from Leytonstone.

	Before War.		*Since War.*	
	s	*d*	*s*	*d*
Coal 25	0	ton	30	0 ton
Bread (white)	0	4½ qtn.	0	7½ qtn.
„ "Allinson"	0	6½ „	0	8 „
Butter	1	3 lb.	1	5 lb.
Butter beans	0	6 qt.	0	8 qt.
Macaroni ...	0	4 lb.	0	6 lb.
Sugar	0	2 lb.	0	4 lb.
Lentils & peas	0	2 & 4 lb.	0	4 & 6 lb.
Flour	0	6½ qtn.	0	8 qtn.
Provost oats	0	5½ pkt.	0	6½ pkt.
Matches ...	0	1½ doz.	0	2½ doz.
Jam	0	6½ lb.	0	7½ lb.
Cheese... ...	0	8 & 10 lb.	0	10 & 1/lb

Tea inferior when sold at same price.

This price list, made out by a woman who has a larger income than the preceding one to dispose of, shows an increase of 22 per cent. The sender points out that the soldier's and labourer's wife would have to pay more for some of the things named, as she would be obliged to buy in smaller quantities. The cheapest coal that the writer can procure cost 30s. a ton, and she tells us that bought by the cwt. it costs 40s. a ton.

Bundles of wood are smaller than they were before the War, and six are given instead of seven for 3d. Coal blocks, made of coal dust, which the poor use largely, are smaller and dearer than they were.

Do Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers realise what these things mean ?

We demand that during the War the Government shall control the food supply, refusing to allow the prices to rise above normal, fixing the prices to be charged and the profits to be made by wholesale and retail dealers in consultation with representatives of women housekeepers, dealers, and workers. Working women must be placed on all committees for fixing food prices.

WHY ONLY ISLINGTON ?

At a town's meeting called by the Mayor of Islington (Alderman G. S. Elliott), and held at the local Town Hall, a resolution was passed demanding that the Government should acquire immediate powers to arrest and reduce the inflated prices now being charged for all commodities, and by so doing prevent the suffering and physical deterioration which must inevitably follow upon a continuance of the present situation.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 47.—Saturday, Feb. 6th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

HUSBAND, WIFE AND CHILD.

The Select Committee on Naval and Military separation allowances and pensions, has just reported. It recommends an increase, both on the scale originally put forward by the Government, and on that of the white paper lately issued, which was an increase on the previous scale. Let us hope that the House of Commons will make still further improvements.

To the disabled soldier the white paper would have awarded 14s., if he were unmarried; 16s. 6d. if he had a wife to keep. The Select Committee offers 25s. whether the man be married or unmarried.

Can a husband and wife live as cheaply, or can they live more cheaply than a man alone can do? That is a question which we must examine presently.

The wife of a soldier gets 12s. 6d.; the widow 10s., if under 35, 12s. 6d. if over 35, and 15s. if over 45, with 5s. for the first child, 3s. 6d. for the second, and 2s. for each of the other children.

The sailor's wife gets 6s., with 4s. for the first child, 3s. for the second, and 2s. for the others. The report only speaks of four children; we hope the allowances are not to stop there. These allowances are contingent on an allotment which is not compulsory as in the case of the soldier. The smaller allowances proposed for the sailors' wives are a clear illustration of the harsh fact that the provision which is being made for the women and children whose husbands and fathers go to war, is not due to the Nation's kind, wise care for motherhood and childhood, but is merely flung out in rising bids to stimulate recruiting. Sailors are not so urgently needed as soldiers at the present time, therefore the sailor's wife and child goes short.

Motherless children of both soldiers and sailors are to receive 5s. a week each, and in the Navy no allotment is required.

Why should motherless children have a larger allotment than the others? Why is it always assumed that a mother is able to feed and clothe her children more cheaply than anyone else? If a mother under 35 years of age has six children, she will get—for we hope that the allowances do not stop at four children—£1 6s 6d. A person who takes charge of a soldier's six motherless children will get for their maintenance 30s. A disabled soldier who has six children will get £2.

Why are these differences? Assuming, as we must do, that the widow's children eat no less and require as much clothing and other necessaries as the others, we find that whilst the widow has 10s. over and above the 16s. 6d., which is supposed to be sufficient for her children's maintenance, the person who takes charge of the motherless children has 13s. 6d., and the disabled soldier has £1 3s. 6d.

The children's mother, the man's wife, is always expected to manage with less money, because it is always assumed that she is to be content with a bare subsistence—just enough food to eat, just clothes enough to cover her, no pocket money of her own. The woman who takes charge of six motherless children has 9s. more to spend on herself than is allowed to their own mother. The bachelor who lives in lodgings, where one or two women housekeep for several men, needs as much money as the married man with a wife to keep, because those other women want some extra remuneration for their services, and the wife works always without pay.

"Can wives and mothers be paid for their services? Should they ask for pay for performing their simple obvious duties?" people ask. You may answer "No!" to both questions, but remember that a little extra money of one's own in one's hand to spend, gives the power to gain experience and means of self development. How circumscribed is the life of the dweller in mean streets with never on extra penny to spend! She can never take a country holiday, she can scarcely go more than a few streets' distance from her home. She cannot buy books or pay an entrance fee to exhibitions. She has to buy second-hand clothes or the very cheapest and most rubbishy of new.

The mothers of our Nation have as much right as others to opportunities for varied experience, which develop character and enlarges the mind. It is imperative for the progress of our race that mothers should have such opportunities, but they are beyond the reach of the majority.

If we compare the soldier's pension with the 10s., 12s. 6d., or 15s. allotted to his wife, we may try to persuade ourselves that he is given more because *he*, and not she, has earned the pension by his fighting, but in our hearts we know it is not so. Almost always, even where the woman's service is the largest, she is paid with the same, or even greater disproportion. It is customary to undervalue the services of all women; the service rendered by women in their homes most of all.

The Select Committee has followed the evil custom of undervaluing the mother's services and underestimating her needs. It has also followed the equally common and disastrous custom of underestimating the cost of maintaining children. Children eat nearly as much as grown up people; their clothes, although they are smaller, wear out faster; 5s. a week for each child is a very modest maintenance allowance. It is not one upon which a reduction can be made for quantities, as Poor Law and other institutions know.

The Select Committee's report says nothing of unmarried wives, and leaves the parents and young brothers and sisters of soldiers in the same position as before.

No the Report of the Select Committee will not do, from it these facts emerge.

A single man's living expenses are supposed to be 25s., a woman's 10s., 12s. 6d., or 15s., according to her age. A woman cannot live in decency on these sums. A man with a wife is given nothing extra to pay for her maintenance. She is to be able to housekeep for him and herself as cheaply as a lodging house keeper who has a dozen men to cater for and cooks all their meals on the same fire. We know it cannot be done, even though the woman goes without half the things she ought to have.

The mother of a family does not get the 10s., 12s. 6d., or 15s. that is supposed to be hers, because the children's allowances are too small to maintain them. She has to pay for rent, coal, gas, and buy part of of the children's food and clothing out of the allowance that is already too small to maintain her.

We must revise our National standard of values, a mother's value and a child's value must not be held so cheap. The Belgian refugees in Blackpool are billetted at a flat rate of 10s. a head for man, woman or child.

We women must join in strong force to protect the mothers, wives and children of the soldiers. It is true that many civilian mothers, wives and children are worse off than they, but their case is the point of attack at the moment. Let us gain a higher standard for these women and all women will benefit, for the National standard of values for mother and child that is in the making will ultimately affect us all.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WANTED—£500 for the 'Woman's Dreadnought'

to extend its sphere of work and influence.

	£	s	d
Anonymous	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Penn-Gaskell ...	1	1	0

Who will fill this space before next week?

WAR.

All the mind would shrink from, of excesses:
All the body perpetrates of bad;
All that we read, hear, dream, of man's distresses:
All that the devil would do if run stark mad;
All that defies the worst which pen expresses;
All that by which hell is peopled, or is sad
As hell—mere mortals who their power abuse—
Was here (as heretofore and since) let loose . .
War's a brain-spattering art.

LORD BYRON.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MILITARY & NAVAL PENSIONS and SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

PENSIONS, ETC.

	Old Scale.	White Paper.	As Proposed by the Committee.
Widow without children	5s.	7s. 6d.	10s., 12s. 6d. at 35; 15s. at 45.
Widow and 1 child ...	6s. 6d.	12s. 6d.	15s. (or more if the mother is over 35).
Widow and 2 children	8s.	15s.	18s. 6d. (or more if the mother is over 35).
Widow and 3 children	9s. 6d.	17s. 6d.	20s. 6d. (or more if the mother is over 35).
Widow and 4 children	11s.	20s.	22s. 6d. (or more if the mother is over 35).
Motherless children...	3s. each child	5s. each child up to 3 children, then 4s. each.	5s. each child.

DISABLEMENT.

Total disablement ...	10s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.	14s. (minimum 16s. 6d. if married with no children) up to a maximum of 23s. in addition to any payments for disablement benefit under the Insurance Act.	25s. with an additional allowance of 2s. 6d. for each child.
Partial disablement...	3s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.	3s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.	Such amount as with the wages which the man may be deemed to be capable of earning will amount to 25s. a week.

SEPARATION ALLOWANCES.

	Soldiers.	Including Allotment.
Wife	7s. 7d.	12s. 6d. ... ... 12s. 6d.
Wife and 1 child	8s. 9d.	15s. ... ... 17s. 6d.
Wife and 2 children... ...	9s. 11d.	17s. 6d. ... ... 21s.
Wife and 3 children... ...	11s. 1d.	20s. ... ... 23s.
Wife and 4 children... ...	12s. 3d.	22s. ... ... 25s.
Motherless children... ...	—	3s. 7d. ... ... 5s.

	Sailors.		
Wife	Nothing	... ... 6s.	6s.
Wife and 1 child ...		... ... 8s.	10s.
Wife and 2 children		... ...10s.	13s.
Wife and 3 children		... ...11s.	15s.
Wife and 4 children		... ...12s.	16s.
Motherless children		... ... 3s.	5s.
		contingent upon allotment	contingent upon allotment

The Committee further recommends that wives married after enlistment should participate in the benefits now reserved for those married before enlistment.

The Committee recommends that the increases take effect from March 1st.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S CALL FOR PEACE.

At Washington, in the district of Columbia, U.S.A., American women recently held three mass meetings to form a Peace Society. Jane Addams, the pioneer social worker, whose name is a household word in America, was elected president.

The following manifesto has been issued:—

"We, women of the United States, assembled in behalf of World Peace, grateful for the security of our own country, but sorrowing for the misery of all involved in the present struggle among warring nations, do hereby band ourselves together to demand that war should be abolished. . . . .

As women, we are especially the custodians of the life of the ages. We will not longer consent to its reckless destruction. As women, we are particularly charged with the nurture of childhood and with the care of the helpless and the unfortunate. We will not longer accept without protest that added burden of maimed and invalid men and poverty-stricken widows and orphans which war places upon us.

As women, we have builded by the patient drudgery of the past the basic foundations of the home and of peaceful industry. . . We are called upon to start each generation onward toward a better humanity. We will not longer tolerate without determined opposition that denial of the sovereignty of reason and justice by which war and all that makes for war to-day, in an hour destroys the social structure that centuries of toil have reared, and renders impotent the idealism of the race.

Therefore, as the mother-half of humanity, we demand that our right to be considered in the settlement of questions concerning not alone the life of individuals but of nations, be recognised and respected.

We demand that women be given a share in deciding between war and peace in all the courts of high debate; within the home, the school, the church, the industrial order, and the State."

The following platform of principles was adopted, some of its items by majority vote, others by the unanimous choice of those attending the conference:—

1. The immediate calling of a convention of neutral nations in the interest of early peace.

2. Limitation of armaments and the nationalization of their manufacture.

3. Organized opposition to militarism in our own country.

4. Education of youth in the ideals of peace.

5. Democratic control of foreign policies.

6. The further humanizing of governments by the extension of the franchise to women.

7. Concert of nations to supersede "Balance of Powers."

8. Action toward the gradual organization of the world to substitute law for war.

9. The substitution of an international police for rival armies and navies.

10. Removal of the economic causes of war.

11. The appointment by our government of a commission of men and women, with an adequate appropriation, to promote international peace.

LOBBYING.

A number of members of the E.L.F.S. lobbied at the House of Commons on the opening of Parliament last Tuesday. The attendance of members was very poor. Mr. Will Thorne, however, came out at the request of Mrs. Drake, and the various points upon which the E.L.F.S. is making a special stand, were put to him; his replies were illuminating:

"You must remember the Labour party is in a small minority."

"We're only a few—we can't do everything."

"It's not my fault bread's up."

"We can't do anything, I've told you that before; we're in a minority."

It got monotonous after a time.

Mrs. Bird saw Mr. Yeo, who was as polite and as non-committal as members usually are. But he was decidedly interested when she told him that some of the gift of provisions from Canada was being used in institutions when it was intended for the use of such people as she, with six children to feed and bread at 7½d. a quartern. Mr. Yeo asked to have this in black and white as he had heard of another instance of misappropriation of these provisions, and he wished to ask a question about it in the House.

No other member asked for responded, and as the House rose early, at 4.30—their own convenience being more important to the members than the extortionate prices their constituents are having to pay—the E.L.F.S. members left the lobby and stood outside the gate at the corner of Bridge Street, where a number of members make their exit. One of them Mrs. Drake stopped "What are you going to do about bread and coal?" she asked. He told her that certain days had been allotted for the discussion of these matters, etc. When she approached him on the subject of votes for women, he said that it was a "contentious measure" and that nothing but non-contentious emergency business was to be taken this session. His answer was not surprising. In times of peace votes for women is a "non-party" question and therefore cannot be dealt with. In time of war when "party" legislation is ruled out, votes for women becomes "contentious"—in spite of the huge majority which it commands in the House as a whole. The member to whom Mrs. Drake was speaking added: "We are all agreed about coal and bread." So if nothing is done we shall know that they are all agreed to do nothing—which is what we already suspect.

On the following day Mrs. Parsons and West Ham members who can only go up to Westminster in the evening, reached the House at six o'clock to find the members already gone.

MORE SWEATING.

A woman, out of work through the War, obtained employment at Moscow's in Roman Road. She was paid 3d. for finishing soldiers' overcoats, each of which took an hour and a quarter. She felt she was not strong enough to earn her living at this rate and has gone to the Queen's workrooms. She cannot earn more than 10s. there it is true, but she can see to it that they do not get more than 10s. worth of work out of her.

The General Meeting of the E.L.F.S. will be held at 400 Old Ford Road on Monday, February 15th, at 8 p.m.

IN THE SQUARE.

While I was selling DREADNOUGHTS on the south side of Trafalgar Square, where no speaking is allowed by the authorities, on Sunday, January 24th, an old working man came up to me.

"I'll 'ave one of them, Miss," he said, producing a penny, "Could you spare a minute to 'ave a talk?"

I spared a good deal more than a minute.

"Seems to me," he began, "that the country's in enough danger without you ladies askin' for 'Votes for Women.'"

I laughed. I had never regarded Votes for Women as a danger to the country, and I said so. He was willing to consider that it depended on the point of view.

"But wouldn't you be better getting young men to enlist?" he said.

"How could I ask a young man to leave his wife to the tender mercies of his country," I asked in my turn, "when she has no Vote with which to protect her interests? In Australia, where Women have Votes, a soldier's widow or a totally disabled man is sure of a pension of £1 a week, and 5s. for every child under 16. But—Well you know what happens to the women over here."

It seemed to strike him as an entirely new idea—he had evidently not been listening to the speeches from the plinth. As he did not answer my question I went on:—

"Its no use pretending that the Government bothers itself about women—unless they make themselves a nuisance."

That roused his original train of thought.

"Don't you reckon the country's got enough trouble without you ladies askin' for Votes?" he said.

Evidently, if Votes for Women was not a danger, at least it must be regarded as a trouble! "The trouble with this country is that its Women *haven't* got Votes," I said; "I personally want a Vote because there are such lots of things that want putting right, and women know it, but their hands are tied."

"D'you reckon a woman with a Vote could put everything straight?" he asked.

"Not one woman, but a few hundred thousand women, even, who knew what they wanted could do wonders with votes. The men don't know how to use them. They vote Liberal or they vote Conservative, or sometimes they vote for a man with brains, only *he* doesn't get in."

"I agree, I agree," he cried fervently, and having found a common sympathy we mutually abused Conservatives, Liberals, and Labour with great impartiality.

"Only the silly part is," I cried, "that you men send them back and back whether they do what you want or whether they don't. You swallow the same old promises at every General Election, and never seem to notice that they are not carried out. Catch a woman thinking that promises are as good as performances—you wait till we've got votes and see!"

The meeting was drawing to a close. I wanted to catch the people with my papers as they streamed away.

"Then you think men can't manage things and *that's* why you want votes," he said, as he shook my hand (I don't know if he had been climbing the plinth before the meeting, but his hand was about as grimy as mine, which is saying a good deal).

"That's the very idea," I said; and I left him leaning against the post with the DREADNOUGHT sticking out of his pocket, and a, to him, entirely new aspect of Votes for Women to cogitate upon.

E. D. SHARP.

TICKETS FOR BREAD.

In future buying or selling bread for money will be prohibited in Berlin. The authorities will issue red stamps to each individual for a certain quantity of bread, and only in exchange for those stamps will bread be supplied. In a few days similar regulations are likely to apply all over Germany. No one is allowed to have more than 4lb. 7oz. of bread per week.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Editor,

It would be difficult to say with what great pleasure I read in the last issue of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT that there was a possibility of its being used as a medium for furthering the movement for feeding school children on communal and not on "charity" lines.

Rising prices are bringing in many thousands of working class homes a bewildering maddening anxiety to the mother as to how to bring to meet ends which were never intended to do so; while for thousands of children there is necessarily a shortage of food, which, by lowering the physique of the working-class population, will entail a heavy cost on generations yet to come.

Protests against rising prices are forthcoming from many working-class organisations, but they should be accompanied by a very emphatic demand that the feeding of school children be at once made compulsory on all Education Authorities. Free meals should be given as the rest of free education is given, not because the parents are poor, but because they are citizens, and because, as workers, they have helped to produce the wealth of the community from which the cost of education is taken.

There must be no insulting inquiries as to the income of the parents, the number of pawn tickets, etc., etc. The food must be of the best and generous in quantity. It should be served decently, even daintily, so that the meal may be educative in its character. The service should be skilled and paid for out of public funds; it should also provide the cost of training those who serve; and the foodstuffs needed should be grown by the community on some of the waste lands now gone out of cultivation. In all these ways honourable employment would be provided for women at present unemployed.

There will be a difficulty at first in meeting the objections of the thrifty self-respecting parent. But even the thrift of the parent must not stand between the child and the food that is necessary for his full physical development. Until other dining halls are forthcoming, the school must be used, even if the time-table has to be altered; and should the space required still be inadequate then we must take the hint given by Mr. Jenkins in last week's DREADNOUGHT, and "commandeer" the churches.

I may state that the last official report by the chief medical officer at the Board of Education states that "in practice the Act (Provision of Meals Act) has been a dead letter over the whole rural area of England and Wales."

As one of the innumerable hosts of rank and file propagandists, I have for twenty years taken part in the work of educating public opinion as to the need of feeding school children. But the starving child is still with us. There is, however, one great hope—for coming along in ever-increasing strength is the great Women's Movement. And in the East End is a *working women's* movement.

The mothers of the rural homes from which the child workers of agricultural districts are drawn, will have small cause, at this time of rising prices but not of rising wages, to be grateful to those who are trying to prevent the children from adding to the starvation family income unless steps are taken to secure that the children shall be adequately fed. I hope the working women of the E.L.F.S. will insist that, coupled with the protests against increased child labour, shall be the demand for free school meals. They should ask the Government if it would not be cheaper and better to feed growing children in beautiful school dining halls than to provide hospitals and asylums for women who are broken-down by a strain which, as the working women of the country are learning, *need not be endured.*

M. BRIDGES ADAMS.

"BUSINESS" AS USUAL.

"Renewed Activity in Meat Shares" is an omnious heading for a *Times* Stock Exchange article. It is a sign that capitalists are preparing to make further profits out of the people's needs.

In the Liverpool market on February 2nd flour was 46s., *i.e.*, 20s. more than before the War! At Guildford and Salisbury wheat was 60s. a quarter!

At a meeting of the Manchester District Grocers' Association on February 2nd, Mr. J. E. Lever said that there was a strong opinion that food was being cornered.

The Miners' Federation declare that the rise in the price of coal is not due to shortage of labour; they say that at certain collieries miners are still only given the opportunity to work a few days a week. They protest against the attempt to suspend the Eight Hours Act.

In reply to the circular of the South Metropolitan Gas Company asking consumers to approach their Members and secure Parliamentary action to reduce the price of coal, and prevent that of gas from rising, a resident of Clapton wrote that, being a woman, she had no Parliamentary representative, and that if the Gas Company wished to secure the co-operation of its consumers, its first step must be to get Votes for Women.

At Clerkenwell Police Court the other day, Ben Lippschitz was charged with living on the immoral earnings of Mabel Brown, who stayed with him as his wife. The woman said that she had been employed as a typist at £1 a week, but when War broke out her salary had been reduced, and the man said, it was "no good working in that way," and that she must go on the streets. As they were starving, she agreed, and since then he had frequently assaulted her to force her to continue this odious trade. The man was sentenced to six month's imprisonment under the Vagrancy Act, and two months for assault. He has gone to gaol—but what is the woman to do? The sweating of women workers is responsible for many a case like this.

At Old Street Police Court on January 27th, a woman was summoned for sending her child to school in a verminous condition. She said that she did her best, but that she had to work so hard to keep body and soul together, that she had little time to attend to her home and children. She made khaki trousers for 3d. a pair.

In the same court, Barnet Rabinowitz, a Government contractor, of Slater Street, Bethnal Green, was summoned for paying one man and seven girls at less than the Trade Board rates. He blamed a sub-contractor, and was leniently dealt with, being fined only 10s. on the first case, and 2s. on each of the others, *i.e.*, 24s. He was made to pay £17 2s. 8d. arrears on wages, of which the workers would have been defrauded had the case not come to light.

William Middleton was sentenced at the Middlesex Sessions to 12 months hard labour for receiving a stolen threepenny bit. The Court of Criminal Appeal quashed the sentence on the ground of insufficient evidence. The Court did *not* point out that the sentence was monstrously harsh for so petty an offence, and the offending Judge has not been punished.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.

The Misses Fussell 5.0.0, Miss Abraham 5.0.0, The Misses Macbean 2.0.0, Miss Laird 2.0.0, Miss E. S. Court 1.0.0, Mrs. & Miss Simes 1.0.0, Miss C. M. Richardson 10.0, Miss M. Burgess 5.0, Mrs. Smith 10.0, Mrs. Johnson 5.0, Miss Howard 4.6, Collection, Women's Hall 2.9½, Clarion Reader—Pendleton, Manchester 2.0, Mrs. & Miss Green 1.0, Miss Evans 1.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS:—Miss A. M. Buchan 10.0.0, Miss H. N. Mack 5.5.0, Mrs. Grieve 5.0.6, Anon (fortnightly) 6.0.0, Mrs. Richardson Kuhlmann 5.0.0, Mrs. Willmott 3.0.0, Mrs. A. M. Burke 3.0.0, Miss H. Fryer 2.2.0, Violet Nurseries, Henfield 2.0.0, Mrs. Bull 2.0.0, Mrs. Reinold (2.6 weekly) 1.2.6, Mrs. Osmond 1.11.10, Mrs. F. E. Rowe 1.1.0, Mrs. Brewer 1.1.0, Per Miss M. Durrant 1.0.0, Mrs. J. Fforde, 1.0.0, Lady Maxwell 1.0.0, Mr. Willmott 1.0.0, Mrs. Patricia Shaw 1.0.0, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (monthly) 1.0.0, Lady Jenkinson 15.0, Mrs. Singer 13.0, Miss Hinton 10.10, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Miss Bonwick (monthly) 10.0, Miss E. S. March 10.0, Mrs. Rintoul 10.0, Mrs. Usherwood 10.0, Per Mrs. Barfield 10.0, J. Cleveland, Esq. 10.0, Anon—Hornsey (weekly) 10.0, Anon, per Miss Howard 10.0, Mrs. S. M. Harris 5.0, H. Groves, Esq. 5.0, Miss Bradish 5.0, Mrs. H. Girling (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Sanderson 5.0, Miss M. Burgess (monthly) 5.0, Miss C. Hopkins (monthly) 5.0, the Misses Black 5.0, Mrs. E. J. Trechmann 5.0, Miss E. Hill 4.0, Miss M. Renthe (monthly) 4.0, Miss Howard 4.0, Tabernacle Sunday School Children 3.6, Mrs. K. Sargent 2.6, A. Cope, Esq. 2.0, Cuckoo 3.3, Miss N. C. Morrison 2.6, Tommy 2.6, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Miss O. M. Fontaine 2.6, Miss Haburn (monthly) 2.6, Per Mrs. Tollen 1.4, Mrs. Fowles 1.0, W. Gilbert, Esq. 1.5, Miss M. Burgess 0.6, Miss Picton 0.6, "From a poor Cook" 0.7½, Miss A. Bell 0.7½, Mrs. Duval 0.5.

COLLECTED—Mrs. Bird 13.3, Mrs. Drake 9.7, Miss M. Isaacs 0.7.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Charlotte Stacklock, The Violet Nurseries, Henfield, Miss E. A. Hartley, Miss Margaret Bennett, Mrs. Richmond, Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, Miss M. A. Pelly, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Willmott, "A member of the W.S.P.U.," Mrs. H. G. Boswell, Mrs. Law, Miss M. Burgess, Mrs. Turner.

We have received 2s. 6d. from some little girls in South Africa who gave up their weekly pocket money, in order to pay for meals for East London children.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

Organiser: MISS MANICOM, 321 Roman Rd.

Thanks are due to those who contributed towards the successful poster parade at Old Kent Road last Saturday, also to those who have worked so hard selling and collecting during the week.

If you want to spend a pleasant and profitable evening, give in your name to the organiser; she is sure to find a congenial task for you. Helping in this fight is helping humanity, so do your share in making the history of this age a credit to us.

More names are still required for collecting on Milk Days—Feb. 6th and 7th. Many little lives are depending upon our efforts, so if you have only a short time to spare, give it to collect something for our babies.

We are very grateful to Miss Murray-Clark and friends for the fine concert last Sunday. Will members please make these Sunday evening meetings still more widely known? Two new members are welcomed this week. Do your best to make more members.

Our Savings Bank is proving a great success. There is still time to join. Shares at 6d. each. Share out June 30.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Jan. 30, 269.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

Mrs. Walshe gave an interesting address, Tuesday evening, in reference to position of nurses in this War, and it was made clear how the possession of the Vote would improve things for them.

Members have all been very pleased to pay their January subscriptions. It is quite a pleasure to see that they are as enthusiastic as ever. The Friday afternoon meeting was well attended, everyone appreciating Mrs. Scurr's instructive address on the work of the Guardians—a debate followed. In the evening our Suffrage Club was opened by Miss A. Hicks, who has worked the hardest of all to get it ready, and we gave her our hearty thanks. On this occasion some of our people saw Miss S. Pankhurst for the first time, and they mean to see more still in the future. Miss Pankhurst explained to them what women have done and what women can do. We hope to learn more of our movement, and more of each other by means of this club. It is open from 7 to 10 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. A library is attached to club where books on popular subjects may be borrowed of Mrs. Schlette at a fee of ½d. a fortnight. So bring along your friends, all are welcome. Will those who have promised to collect for Babies' Milk be sure to be prompt, on Saturday at Railway Street, 12.30, and at Mrs. Bird's house in the morning. Those who have time and have not promised to take a box, please go with collectors and sell papers. We need paper-sellers badly, and this will be a good opportunity to get used to it.

Dreadnoughts sold, week ending January 30—209.

Mrs. Schlette 57; Mrs. Bird 50.

Distributors—Mrs. Schlette, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Churcher, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Allen.

Mrs. Schlette has put in a claim for the badge for selling 1,007 *Dreadnoughts*. Who will win it next?

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—14 Butchers' Road.
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

On Thursday there was a large audience addressed by Mr. Franklin and Miss Smyth. Three new members were welcomed, and many old friends seemed to have come back. We are very anxious to have as big a meeting each week, as in three weeks' time (Feb. 11) we are expecting Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Will some regular members volunteer to call on some of the absent ones, as ours is such a big district? Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker at Beckton Road on Friday. We want more members to support the open-air meetings; there is always work to be done in talking to the unconverted, paper-selling, etc. Thanks to the friends who have helped at 14 Butcher's Road—we shall announce new address shortly. In the meantime milk is distributed at the above address. Will members who are willing to collect on Saturday or Sunday, this week, even if only for an hour, call for a box? We need money very urgently for both General and Milk funds. Mrs. Jelphe is thanked for sending clothes, etc., from Mortlake.

162 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Jan. 30

BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. MCCHEYNE & Mrs. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Splendid meeting held at 53 St. Leonard Street on Tuesday, when Mrs. Scurr spoke to a very interested audience. Members are thanked for bringing so many friends with them. We hope next meeting they will all join the Federation.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—J. W. BONARIUS, 89 Wyke Road.

The R.S.P.U. still meets every Tuesday, in the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, 8 p.m. Entrance Fee 3d., subscription 1d. a week. Social advertised for Feb. 13, is to be postponed owing to another Social taking place in Bow on same night. Ours will be held on a later date, when all profits will go to E.L.F.S. Milk Fund.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.

Parliament is now reassembling and it is the duty of all to bring the utmost pressure to bear on the Government to force them to pass into law during the present session a measure enfranchising women.

The Secretary thinks it would be a good plan to go lobbying the House of Commons on an evening in the near future, and he hopes all members will be willing to take part.

During the month we hope to hold a big public meeting in North London. We hope to be able to give particulars next week.

Speech in Trafalgar Square by Mrs. Hunter the Preston soldier's wife, who organised a petition of fifteen hundred soldiers' wives to protest against the aspersions cast upon them, and took a deputation of soldiers' wives to confront the Mayor.

I am here to-day from the town of Preston, known as Proud Preston. The Suffragist question there, has its supporters, and one at least you will know—Mrs. Dr. Rigby—who has been cast into prison more than once for her outspoken principles on Franchise Reform.

To-day, however, I am here to speak of the treatment of Soldiers' wives in this country. At the outbreak of the War you know that excitement was great and enthusiasm was tremendous in Preston as in other parts of the country, but there, as elsewhere, we had the namby-pamby interfering busybodies, both men and women who, when our husbands went away to serve their King and Country, began to seek a new sphere of public activity by attacking us.

They received inspiration and support from the War Office in London. Mr. McKenna and the Army Council caused notices to be issued threatening to cancel payment to soldiers' wives under certain conditions of misconduct. The extreme temperence advocate also seized this moment to advance his cause by casting foul aspersions against soldiers' wives, accusing them of wasting their husbands' wages in public houses. It was a most mean and cowardly policy at this bitter crisis of England's history, when men and women were alike united in fighting the common enemy. I will quote you two instances.

At a meeting of the Relief Committee at Preston, which Committee has the local administration of the Prince of Wales's fund in hand, Mrs. Ransom a member of the Committee, said of the soldiers' wives:—

> "These women were feeling a freedom which they ought not to treat as freedom." She urged that each ward committee would take steps to let these women know that if they persisted in their evil and painful habits, their children would be taken away from them and their separation allowances placed at the disposal of the children, she declared that: "harsher measures than any adopted so far were needed," and that "women who forgot their duty whilst their husbands were away had forfeited all claim to respect."

That was a nice policy to advocate—the taking away of our children from us! We never in history heard tell of any sane person advocating the taking away of children from their parents in a civilised country on such flimsy evidence as that which Mrs. Ransom put forward.

But I bearded Mrs. Ransom before the Mayor and the members of the Relief Committee in the Preston Council Chamber, and she very quickly climbed down with a mild and meek explanation that she did not mean her words to be interpreted in the sense they had been. She was ashamed of her utterances when she had seen her blunder, and gladly placed a different interpretation upon them. At the same meeting, another member, Mrs. NcGhie also said that soldiers wives naturally turned into public houses for pick-me-ups and stimulants. Again, when challenged she too, in quite a humble fashion, ate her own words and said she did not mean them in the way in which they had been reported. The Mayor himself too had made similar objectionable statements and he too now complained that he had been mis-reported and did not intend to cast aspersions upon all soldiers' wives. Thus when faced they all quickly changed their tune!

I am glad to be able to tell you that in Preston there has not been one single prosecution of a soldier's wife for drunkenness or misconduct. Moreover Mr. Robert J. Parr, a director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, came to a meeting at Preston, and in the presence of the Mayor, made the following statement:—

> "Amongst other things it was intimated that every soldier's wife had taken to drink, and most appalling stories followed of the conduct of soldiers' wives. The Society immediately instructed its inspectors to report cases of women who had become addicted to drink since they had been left by their husbands, and he was delighted to be able to say that they COULD NOT PROVE ONE REAL CASE in which a woman had been swept off her feet in the great rush of excitement and anxiety and had taken to drink."

It is the same throughout the country. Attacks have been made upon soldiers' wives without the least justification. In all these cases, the assumption is that women is the weaker sex and therefore requires special treatment. All this arises from the fact that woman does not stand equally with man in regard to the franchise. Women now-a-days are to be treated as babies, and to be led by guiding strings. It is assumed almost daily in the press, that women are not capable of taking care of themselves and controlling their own conduct. Our message to mankind generally, is that we are quite capable of behaving ourselves and pursuing our daily avocations with the same rectitude as mighty man himself. The women of Preston have proved this.

I have received letters from soldiers' wives and from my own husband, which clearly show that at the moment when the country was rife with the subject, both the soldiers who were fighting for us at the front and those in training, were upset by the silly speeches that were being made and the canting nonsense that was being published in the Press. Thus, instead of our soldiers being strengthened mentally and morally whilst carrying the gun to meet the foe, they were disturbed by ugly suspicions about their wives at home, for which there was not the least foundation.

And what of the wives? Their position was not less painful. Why should these calumniating slanders be voiced by responsible people without evidence? Why should our characters be slandered and the general public made to believe that we were wasting our husband's wages and generally misconducting ourselves?

And why should Mr. McKenna even hint or assume that he should have the right to withold our husbands' allowances from us? I tell Mr. McKenna here and now that the allowances made by the Government are payments for services rendered—they are wages with which, neither he nor the mighty influences at Westminster can interfere. They dare not!

We do not support either drunkenness or misconduct; we abhor both. What we are protesting against here to-day in London, is allegations of drunkenness and misconduct which are entirely unfounded and entirely unsupported. Police Court reports throughout the country prove this fact. I can tell you that since the War broke out, the presiding magistrate at the Preston Police Court has been presented on two occasions with a pair of white kid gloves, because he had no cases to try, and our Corporation which dates back several centuries, has never on one single occasion had the honour of presenting two pairs in such a short space of time, and in addition one to its Mayor. I have quoted this to show that during the War both women and men have realised their new responsibilities as members of the British Empire, and there has been less crime, not only in Preston, but throughout the country.

I am here also to assert that the time has come when women should be allotted their proper place in the sphere of daily political routine. Until we get it, we shall always be subject to these unseemly onslaughts upon our character and morals, often, I regret to say from some of our own sex.

So far as soldiers' wives are concerned, let me say in conclusion, that the War Office and the Army Council must be told, clearly and conclusively that they must not interfere with our weekly allowances, neither must they presume to exercise any supervision such as they have tried to exercise over the conduct of soldiers' wives. We do not ask for preferential treatment; we ask only for fair play, and we ask that the treatment to us in the routine of daily life should be the same as is meted out to the men. The same laws which govern one sex, should govern the other, and the time is come when women should be put on an equality in regard to the franchise in order that they may help to make the laws of the land.

MORE MILK.

The heavy cost of keeping up our Milk for Mothers and Babies, our Restaurants and all our other relief work, is causing us great anxiety. We are therefore arranging for two EAST LONDON RELIEF DAYS in the East End, on the first Saturday and first Sunday in February, i.e. February the 6th and 7th.

The following members and friends have already volunteered to help at hours and pitches given below. Other friends please promise to collect at other times and places.

BOW DISTRICT.

SATURDAY—Miss Manicom, Captain.

Miss Hayday and Miss Leary, Bow Road (District Railway) 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Miss Gallop, Miss Rose Cohen and Mrs. W. Lansbury, corner of Grove Road and Roman Road, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Simmonds, Hackney Station, 3 p.m. Mrs. Savoy, Mrs. Pascoe, Miss Ryan, Miss Mackay, Miss R. Pengelly, Miss J. Winter, Miss M. Carr.

SUNDAY—Miss Manicom, Captain.

Miss Hayday and Miss Leary, outside the People's Palace, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Mrs. Clark, Bow Road Station, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Miss Marks, Miss Watts, Mrs. Farrall and Miss Burgess, 3 to 5 p.m., and 7 to 9 p.m. Miss Coleman and Miss King, outside St. Ethelburgh's Church. Mrs. Crabb, Bow Baths. Miss Smyth, Miss Mackay, Miss R. Pengelly, Miss J. Winter, Miss M. Carr, Mrs. Tollon.

POPLAR DISTRICT.

SATURDAY—Mrs. Drake, Captain.

Miss K. Lagsding and Miss D. Morley, outside Green's factory, 1 p.m. Miss White and Mrs. Allen, outside Sailor's Rest, East India Dock Road. Miss Adams, Millwall, 1 p.m.

SUNDAY—Mrs. Bird, Captain.

Miss K. Lagsding and Miss D. Morley, East India Dock Gates, morning. Miss C. Lagsding and Miss C. Dent, outside the Picture Palace opposite Blackwall Tunnel, 6 p.m. Mr. Drake and Mr. Waller, Mrs. Donovan.

WEST HAM.

SATURDAY—Mrs. Parsons, Captain.

Two friends, Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Miss Penn and Miss Greenleaf, Stratford Empire, 6 p.m. Miss Brown and Miss Tighe, Boleyn Picture Palace, 6 p.m. Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Thompson Mrs. Backmayer, Mrs. Murray.

SUNDAY—Mrs. Parsons, Captain.

Miss Penn and Miss Greenleaf door to door collection. Two friends, St. Andrew's Church, morning; St. Cedd's, afternoon. Miss Leggett, Beckton Road, corner 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mrs. Drake. Mrs. Mears, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Schnacke, 3—5 and 6—7 outside the Hippodrome. Mrs. Backmayer, Mrs. Debrell evening.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Monday at 6 p.m., and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays, and 14 Butcher's Road, Canning Town on Wednesday evenings. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and Shoes are very urgently needed.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

The Children's Aid Committee, of which Miss Margaret Douglas is the Hon. Secretary, was formed on the outbreak of the War with the object of giving personal and energetic assistance to families in distress owing to the crisis. They have just issued a report of their four months work, which shows that they have found either temporary or permanent homes, or provided country holidays for 350 children. The East London Federation of the Suffragettes has to thank the Committee for having helped them in regard to the cases of many children.

The Wimbledon W.S.P.U. at their two cost price restaurants are supplying 15,000 meals weekly. They pay the women they employ at the rate of 5d. an hour, like the E.L.F.S.

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